

List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 9 (Cancelled).

10. (New) A variable field device for process automation, including:
a communications module CU; and
a sensor module SM for measured-value detection;
a signal processing module SPM connected thereto;
a communication module CU; and
a processor module PM, which is connected with said communications module CU for connection of the field device with said superordinated control-evaluation unit, wherein:

said signal processing module SPM and said processor module PM are provided in the form of a reprogrammable logic device LD.

11. (New) The variable field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
said reprogrammable logic device LD includes parts of said communication module CU.

12. (New) The variable field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
said reprogrammable logic device includes parts of said sensor module SM.

13. (New) The variable field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
said reprogrammable logic device LD includes all digitally working components of said sensor module SM.

14. (New) The variable field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
said reprogrammable logic device LD includes at least one embedded processor EP, one memory M and one logic L.

15. (New) The variable field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
said reprogrammable logic device LD serves, in operation, as an SOPC-system (system-on-a-programmable-chip).

16. (New) The variable field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
said communications module CU has a data bus interface, which comprise one of: Profibus®, Foundation Fieldbus®, and CAN®-Bus.

17. (New) The variable field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
said communications module CU has a data bus interface which comprises one of: one or more analog inputs/outputs I/O's, which are one of: frequency output, and pulse output.

18. (New) The variable field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
a function block is loaded into said reprogrammable logic device LD.

19. (New) The variable field device as claimed in claim 18, wherein:
said function block is a Flexible Function Block of one of: Foundation Fieldbus; and a Profibus function block.